[The question of transfer of the court will be considered after the receipt of the report of the Law's Delays Commissioner. The Chief Engineer is investigating the question of constructing small bunds in the canal.]

96. Needs of the Attingal Municipality.

MR. M. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Attingal*) said that there was no use in having self-governing institutions in the State, like the Municipal Councils, unless their decisions were respected by the Government. There were several resolutions passed by the Attingal Municipal Council which had been ignored by the Government. Prominent among such resolutions were those relating to the acquisition of the site for the municipal office and the removal of liquor shops from the town, It was the considered opinion of the Municipal Council that the existing site and building of the municipal office were unsuitable. Permission should be given to the Council to sell the site and building in public auction or the Government should take them over and pay to the Municipal Council the amount spent by it. The office of the local Agricultural Inspector, or of the Assistant Inspector of Vernacular Schools or the Village Panchayat Court might be held in that building, if it were taken over by Government.

Local option should be introduced at Attingal without much delay. That the experiment was only being tried at Changanacherry should not be urged as an excuse for delaying the introduction of the measure at Attingal.

The Council had also passed a resolution seeking permission to file civil suits for appropriate remedies against those who were responsible for the fraudulent purchase of the existing site of the Municipal office. The permission sought for should not be further delayed as the acquisition proceedings were the result of a huge fraud perpetrated by the then official President in collusion with a highly placed Government official. The Council lost about Rs. 3,500 by the transaction.

The opening of libraries in municipal towns would awaken the dormant political consciousness of the citizens of those towns. Municipal libraries should therefore be opened by Government. The Government should intimate to the Municipal Councils the names of standard books on public health, civic welfare etc., if the books could not be purchased by them and supplied free. At any rate, all the Government publications should be supplied to the municipal libraries at half the cost. If it was the desire of the Government that the Municipalities should work satisfactorily, opportunities should be afforded to the citizens to study the principles of self-government.

The President of the Council should be elected from among the non-official members of the Council. The practice of electing non-official Presidents from among those who were not members was very unsatisfactory. Clause (*a*) of sub-section (1) of Section 151 of the Municipal Regulation should be repealed.

A bridge should be constructed at Kollampuzha *kadavu* to afford convenience to traffic passing between Attingal and Kadakkavoor.

There was no *satram* at Attingal and the Travellers' Bungalow opened there was too small to accommodate all the visitors to the town. It was rumoured that Government proposed to construct a *satram* somewhere in the town. The existing municipal building could very well be used as a *satram* and the premises thereof could be enlarged, if necessary, by the acquisition of the land lying between it and the Trivandrum-Quilon road. In the event of the suggestion being accepted, the Municipal Council might be given another site and building by the Government.

Another need of the town was a public recreation ground measuring four or five acres in extent. Government should sanction a grant for purchasing the land.

Persons who were living within municipal limits and whose names were in the voters' list should alone be nominated to the Municipal Council. Persons so nominated should represent a class, community or interest within the town.

As women were made eligible for membership in the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, they should no longer be deemed unfit to become municipal councillors. A non-official woman member should be nominated to the Attingal Municipal Council at the earliest opportunity.

DEWAN'S REPLY: I have dealt with some of the representations that you have made in answer to previous members, for instance your last subject. The question of allowing Councils to elect non-official Presidents is one that will have to be considered with reference to each Municipality. Government will consider whether that privilege should be re-granted in the case of Attingal.

As regards the municipal library and recreation ground, it would be a very good thing if the Municipality has a recreation ground and a well-equipped library having useful books. But I do not think that the Municipality has moved in the matter.

All your suggestions will be considered and necessary orders passed.

97. Needs of the Quilon taluk.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI VISWANATHA PILLAI (*Quilon taluk, Group I*) said that the proposed retrenchment in the Public Works Department was detrimental to public interests. A large number of the Assembly representations related to public works and local needs; and retrenchment in the Public Works Department really meant defeating the objects of the Assembly.

The constitution of the Road Boards was defective. The non-official members were elected on a very restricted franchise. There was an official majority on the Boards. Further, the Government could